

Conservation of lakes and other urban water bodies

2429. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any nationwide annual action plan for cleaning, restoring and conserving lakes and other urban water bodies in the country, especially in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the funds allocated and expenditure incurred on pollution control measures for urban water bodies in Bengaluru; and

(c) what is the current status of the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems implemented by Government in Bengaluru?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) This Ministry has been implementing the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) for conservation of polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas of the country, including Karnataka, on cost sharing between the Central Government and respective State Governments. To have better synergy and avoid overlap, the NLCP has been merged with the scheme of National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) in February, 2013 into an integrated scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) with the objective of conserving lakes and wetlands in a holistic manner.

Based on the proposals received from different States, this Ministry has so far sanctioned projects for conservation of 63 lakes in 14 States, including Karnataka, at a total cost of ₹ 1096.09 crores under the NLCP/NPCA for various activities, which include interception, diversion and treatment of pollution load entering the lake, de-silting, de-weeding, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, etc. So far, an amount of ₹ 623.64 crore has been released as Central share to the States for the sanctioned projects, which includes an amount of ₹ 11.62 crore released to Government of Karnataka for conservation and management of five lakes in Bengaluru, namely Vengaihkere, Nagvara, Jarganahalli, Lal Bagh and Bellandur. Work on all these five lakes has been completed.

Urban forestry scheme

2430. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched an urban forestry scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the name of cities selected for the purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government for afforestation of degraded forest lands across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has recently launched a Nagar Vana-Udyan Yojana on a pilot basis for a period of five years to create or develop at least one city forest in each Class-I city or cities having Municipal Corporation in forest areas for ecological and environmental benefits. The Ministry will support one time development and non-recurring expenditure to the concerned agency of the concerned cities for creation of a City Forest in forest areas within their jurisdiction upto a maximum of 100 ha. and minimum area of 20 ha. Under the programme, the objective is to create 200 City FOREST in the country.

The Central Government is supporting the State Governments in afforestation and restoration of degraded FOREST in the country through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Bamboo Mission, Green India Mission and different State Plan/Non-Plan Schemes including externally aided projects and under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

Integrated Coastal Zone Management project

2431. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE pleased to state:

(a) whether an Integrated Coastal Zone Management project aimed at livelihood improvement of coastal communities is under implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how the project safeguards the interest of fishing community while at the same time protecting the fragile coastal ecosystem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry has commissioned a World Bank assisted Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project in March, 2010, which is aimed at preparation of integrated coastal zone management plans for selected coastline stretches of coastal states through community participation, capacity building and institutional development in the area of coastal management. The phase-I of the project covers the coastal states of Gujarat, Odisha